Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following Abstract:

Abstract of the Disclosure

Heparin-binding peptides are provided of the formula $R_1(X_1B_1B_2X_2B_3X_3Y_1R_2)_nR_3$, $R_1(X_1B_1B_2B_3X_2X_3B_4X_4Y_1R_2)_nR_3$, and $C(X_1B_1B_2B_3X_2X_3B_4X_4)_nC$; wherein X_1, X_2, X_3, and X_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydropathic amino acids; B_1, B_2, B_3, and B_4 are independently selected from the group consisting of basic amino acids; C is cysteine; Y_1 is zero or one to ten amino acid residues, wherein at least one amino acid residue is proline; n is an integer from one to ten; and R_1, R_2, and R_3 are independently selected segments containing from zero to twenty amino acid residues, provided, at least one of the segments R_1, R_2, and R_3 comprises at least one hydrophobic amino acid residue. The peptide $C(X_1B_1B_2B_3X_2X_3B_4X_4)_nC$ is optionally cyclized via a disulfide bond formed between cysteine residues. The peptides are administered to reduce plasma LMWH and heparin levels and to reduce the anticoagulant effects of heparin and LMWH. The peptides are also administered to inhibit microbial growth and to inhibit mast cell serine proteases involved in various diseases and disorders. The peptides are also administered as carriers to deliver active agents.